

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 7-9 remain pending herein.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,571,632 (Teramoto '632) in view of Japanese 9-312161 (JP '161).

Attached hereto is a verified translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 9-280810, from which the present application claims priority. A certified copy of Japanese Patent Application No. 9-280810 was filed in the parent of the present application, i.e., Serial No. 09/169,563 on October 9, 1998. Japanese Patent Application No. 9-280810 was filed in Japan on October 14, 1997, i.e., prior to the date of publication of JP '161 (i.e., December 2, 1997). The subject matter of each of claims 7-9 herein is supported by disclosure in Japanese Patent Application No. 9-280810. Accordingly, the effective filing date for claims 7-9 is prior to the date of publication of JP '161. Accordingly, JP '161 is not prior art to those claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Teramoto '632 in view of JP '161, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,772,934.

As noted above, in view of the submission herewith of the translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 9-280810, JP '161 is not prior art relative to claims 8 and 9. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. PTO reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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